

Post hosts Safety Awareness Day

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Signal staff

The Fort Gordon Safety office hosted Safety Awareness Day on Wednesday at Heritage Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

An Army Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Control exhibit provided valuable information of the effects of street drugs and the date rape drug of rohypnol on the human body. Colorful pamphlets were available for parents and others to take to help them identify the drugs.

The motorcycle safety display featured a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and a Boulevard C50T. Park Ranger Geoffrey Gerlach and Natural Resource Specialist Jamie Howard, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the Savannah District, brought out a Proline Center console boat to teach water and boating safety.

Sgt. Anthony Morvillo served as the commentator for the canine demonstration while dog handler Sgt. Michael Bombarger worked with his partner, a 3-year old Shepherd named Bingo. The canine is an attack and explosive detection dog who had returned from

Iraq six weeks ago, according to Bombarger. Sgt. Scott Armatrout took on the role of a decoy during the canine show to demonstrate the basic obedience of military working dogs and their patrol capabilities. All the Soldiers are attached to the 35th Military Police Detachment, but are assigned to the canine section. Also, on hand was Spc. Mikkal Valent, another member of the 35th MP Detachment, who demonstrated the many features available in one of the unmarked patrol car, which is used as a traffic vehicle on post.

Janice Wiltz, a basic emergency medical technician, and Charles Mock, a paramedic, with an ambulance from the David Dwight Eisenhower Army Medical Center were available to offer basic first aid, if needed, and helpful safety advice.

The only two members that make up the Fort Gordon Department of Defense bicycle patrol were on hand to talk about bicycle and vehicle safety. Officers Frank Lee and Margaret Simpson explained their role in helping to protect the Fort Gordon community. "We patrol the post exchange, the PX

extra shopping area, and the housing areas," said Lee. "We use Fuji basic street bikes to help control speeding in the housing area," said the 5-year bike patrol veteran. "In addition, we monitor the area near Freedom Park Elementary School from 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and again from 3 to 4 p.m. at the close of the school day."

Nate Moorman, from the Richmond County Health Department, was out to help parents learn how to correctly install child safety and booster seats in their vehicles.

Members of Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and other food items while members of Company A, 369th Signal Battalion supervised the use of a 30-foot climbing wall.

At 1 p.m. members of the Fort Gordon Fire Department demonstrated how an accident victim would be extracted from an automobile.

The program was directed by the Installation Management Command as a result of a rise in vehicle accidents, particularly motorcycle accidents involving Soldiers, according to John Houpt, the senior safety director at Fort Gordon.



Pvts. Christian Vanderbeck and Angela Simpson, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion, show how to safely climb the 30-foot rock wall, one of many activities at Fort Gordon's Safety Awareness Day, Wednesday.



Photos by Bonnie Heater

(Above) Nana Moorman, a representative from the Richmond County Health Department, discusses the harmful effects of street drugs with Spc. David Cox, Pvt. Czarina Lewis, and Spc. Marcus Washington, Company A, 447th Signal Battalion. They manned the Army drug and alcohol prevention and control exhibit during Safety Awareness Day. (Right) Spc. Mikkal Valent, 35th Military Police Detachment, demonstrates features of one of the unmarked patrol cars used to patrol the streets on post.



(Above) Sgt. Michael Bombarger, releases his partner, a 3-year-old German Shepherd named Bingo, as Sgt. Scott Armatrout, playing a decoy during the military working dog demonstration tries to escape. (Right) Bingo, an attack and explosives detecting dog with the Canine section of the 35th MPs, easily runs down the man and apprehends him under the directions of his handler, Bombarger.

